



The OHIO Project



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THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Purpose

As part of OSU's mission of service learning, the College of Dentistry is working to address the number one unmet health need in Ohio - access to dental care. Through the OHIO Project, the College of Dentistry trains excellent, socially aware dental practitioners. Students receive clinical training in a variety of settings, including college-based comprehensive care and specialty clinics, as well as community-based dental clinics.

Nearly 1.2 million working-aged adults (18 - 64 years of age) in Ohio report that they have dental care needs that have not been met. Fifty-one percent of children in Ohio have experienced tooth decay by the third grade.

More than 3.9 million Ohio adults (45 percent) over 18 years of age have no dental insurance - almost three times more than the number of Ohio adults without medical insurance.

Impact

During the senior year of dental education, students spend 50 days providing dental care in community clinics in Ohio under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist who is adjunct faculty and often an alumnus of Ohio State's College of Dentistry.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

College of Dentistry

Community Partners Involved

Columbus Health Department
 Muskingum-Valley Health Centers
 Dental Center
 Columbus Neighborhood Health
 Centers
 Third Street Family Health Services
 Dental Clinic
 Nationwide Children's Hospital
 Cincinnati Health Department
 Dental Center of Northwest Ohio
 St. Elizabeth Health Center
 MetroHealth Medical Center
 Department of Veterans Affairs
 Medical Center Chillicothe, Ohio
 Lima Community Dental
 Mercy Medical Center – Dental Clinic
 Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic

Students are exposed to multiple dental technologies, observe various practice management models, practice four-handed dentistry, and increase their speed and confidence with an established clinic, all while serving a community in need of affordable care.